

NEWS from

Congressman

Dave Obey

Wisconsin's 7th District



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OBEY SPEAKS ON UW-SP CAMPUS, SAYS "WHITE HOUSE MOUNTING WORST ASSAULT ON OUTDOORS, ENVIRONMENT IN MODERN HISTORY"

STEVENS POINT, Wis. – 7th District Congressman Dave Obey said on the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point campus today that our outdoor resources and natural environment are under the worst assault in modern history.

Obey said one of the saddest things happening in Washington is occurring on the environmental front. "For a generation, environmental cleanup was a bipartisan cause and we had a list of Republican and Democratic heroes -- such as Gaylord Nelson, Scoop Jackson, and Ed Muskie among the Democrats and Bob Stafford on the Republican side. But today, this White House is home to most anti-environmental Administration in modern history," said Obey.

"On the international front, rather than trying to fix the Kyoto global warming treaty to make it work, the Bush Administration unilaterally threw it in the ash can."

"On energy front, Vice President Cheney included in his Energy Working Group fifty team members from the energy supply industry -- but only one energy efficiency expert and no experts on renewable energy."

"On the budget front, the Congressional right-wingers and the Bush White House broke their word on the Conservation Trust Fund, walking away from the compromise that Congressman Regula, Dicks, and I negotiated three years ago that over six years was supposed to more than double funding for land acquisition and cleaning up the maintenance backlog at National Parks and Forests -- and then was to ensure that we maintained that support for at least six years."

On the policy front, Obey said that the Administration has proposed:

- weakening enforcement of the Clean Air act;
- shifting 80 percent of the burden of paying for toxic cleanup from the polluters to the taxpayers;
- cutting the budget for drinking water infrastructure projects by \$500 million in spite of a \$500 billion need over the next 20 years.

Obey noted that, "Going back to Jack Kennedy, the country has always been able to count on bipartisan coalition to prevent backsliding on the environment. But that's not true anymore: there are only a handful of GOP moderates left in the party. Most have been drummed out -- and the few that remain have been threatened with primary opponents in order to keep them in line."

"Without more pro-environment and pro-conservation troops in Congress, there's a high risk that we will lose these fights," Obey warned.

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